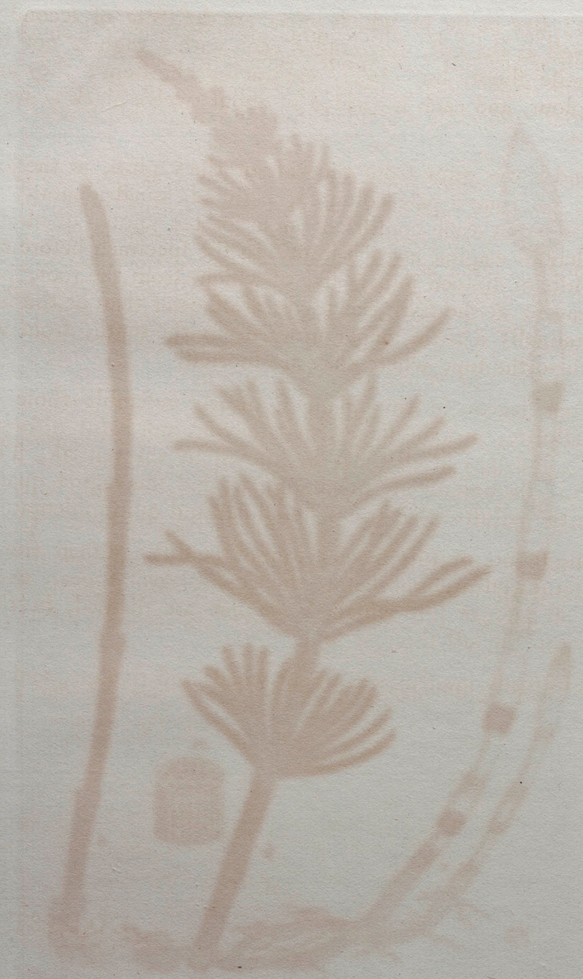

twenty joints; five or ſix of which joints are deſtitute of ſecond leaves, but are, as well as the reſt, ſurrounded each with a vagina, not inflated as in the fertile ſhoot, but cloſely embracing the ſtem; they are of a pale-green colour, and each is divided in about twelve black acute points at the margin.

The ſecond leaves grow from the baſe of the vaginæ, at the joints of the firſt leaf; each has a pale-coloured, pellucid, quadridentate, proper vagina, at its baſe; each conſiſts of eight or ten joints, quadrangular, with quadridentate vaginæ at each joint. In the ſpecimen before me, the firſt leaf conſiſts of ſixteen joints, five of which, from the root, produce no ſecond leaves; at the ſixth the leaves are ſhorter than at the ſeventh, and grow gradually a little longer upwards to the tenth, from whence they diminiſh to the top, where they are ſhorteſt.

The barren leaves in this plant ſo nearly reſemble thoſe of the Equiſetum paluſtre, in ſome ſtages, that they are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed at firſt ſight; but may at all times be known by this remark, That the ſecond leaves in the arvenſe are quadrangular, and the vaginæ quadridentate; but in the paluſtre they are pentangular and quinquidentate.

The fertile ſhoots of this ſpecies cannot be diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of the Equiſetum ſylvaticum, before the ſecond leaves appear, except by the number of laſcinæ into which the vaginæ are divided, in the firſt being twelve, in the laſt three or four.

It grows in ſhady moiſt places about woods and rivulets, and flowers in April.

JAMES BOLTON *Filices Britannicae (An History of the British Proper Ferns)* LEEDS, 1785–1790 CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN Octavo